



SBARA GROUNDPLANE

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March, 2016

SBARA Groundplane - President's Message

Welcome to March 2016. I'm still trying to figure out if it is coming in like a lion or not. The weather service keeps warning us about 10 straight days of rain. At the time of this writing, I haven't seen a drop yet. I understand that the snowpack is above normal, but I'm hoping we still get some more significant rain over the next couple of months. It doesn't seem like the mass amounts of rain from El Niño are occurring as predicted.

Work has been crazy busy and I have had other stuff going on. I spent last Saturday with my godfather, K6KLL, up in Sonoma. He is a former broadcast engineer and Hornblower skipper who also happens to be my elmer. He always has some amazing stories to tell. I was helping he and his roommate with various tasks like programming a new cordless phone and installing a new power supply. I'd love to setup a remote station at his place, as he has a hex beam and a SteppIR. It's soooo much quieter than my S9 noise floor at home with the vertical here in Fremont.

Well...ARRL says that things are pick-

ing up with the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). I have only had a handful of contacts. Even with the listing on the ARRL web site, it just isn't the same fervor as chasing W1AW last year. I really got into it! And although I didn't quite get all of the states, I had a heck of a lot of fun participating. I'm thinking that better propagation may have also played a part in it. For more info on NPOTA, go to: <https://npota.arrl.org/>

I was working from home, this afternoon, and decided to take a break and turn on the rig. I started spinning the dial on various bands and found lots of activity on 15 meters! There were multiple stations coming in from Aruba...and strong! P40AUA was the first station I came across. I had to listen a few times for his call, as it was a mouthful. Fortunately, he wasn't too busy, so I was able to make a quick contact. Unfortunately, I didn't get his name. I looked up the call on qrz.com and found the following text quite interesting:

**Daylight Savings Time
(PDT) beginning at 2am on
Sunday, March 13th, 2016**

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Special points of interest:

- Daily Saving Time 2016
- CW

DANGER

**BEWARE OF THE
HAM RADIO
OPERATOR**

Monthly Meeting— March Presentation

The March SBARA Meeting is Friday, March 11th and the guest speaker is John Miller, K6MM, presenting, "The K9W DXpedition to Wake Atoll." You may remember John from his presentation at SBARA last September on the Navassa Island DXpedition.

John was first licensed as WV2BQJ in 1958 while living in Syracuse, NY. In 1976, John's career took him to Silicon Valley, where he reconnected with amateur radio in the late 90s. In addition to his own website (<http://www.k6mm.com>), he has created websites for a number of amateur radio organizations, as listed on his qrz page at: <http://www.qrz.com/db/K6MM>

For the last decade, John has focused heavily on DXing, contesting, and recruiting new operators into the hobby. His current DXCC total stands at 327 confirmed. He holds 8BDXCC, working on completing 160M for the 9th band. His article entitled "The No Excuses 160M Vertical" won the cover plaque award for the June 2009 issue of OST.

Please come join us for another interesting presentation by John!

"The [P40AUA](#) special event will run the entire month of March 2016, to commemorate the **40th Anniversary of the Aruban flag and national anthem**. It also commemorates the **30th anniversary of our Status Aparte**.

On March 18, 1976, Aruba officially introduced the Aruban flag and national anthem.

On January 1, 1986, Aruba received its **Status Aparte** from the Netherlands. It was a historic moment, as Aruba separated from the Neth. Antilles' constellation of the then 6 islands, and received an autonomous status within the Dutch Kingdom. For the amateur radio community, it meant that Aruba changed from PJ3 prefix to the P4 prefix. (Residents still use P43.) It was in 1986 that Aruba introduced its own currency, and stamps.

The station will be working all bands, CW and SSB." [sic]

Here is their QSL card.



[NOTE: The secret word for a free raffle ticket at the next meeting is: [Aruba](#). Write this word on a piece of paper and hand it in for one, free

raffle ticket.] I continued to spin up the dial and found P43A...also booming in from Aruba. Jean-Pierre Lauwereys had quite a pileup. I tried for him a few times and gave up. My dog Bozley was whining to go for a walk, so I caved. :-)

HAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - [Primavera Century Bike Ride](#) - Sunday, April 17th!

Just a reminder that Tony Flusche (AB6BR) is still looking for volunteers for the Fremont Freewheelers (FFBC) sponsored bike ride. He usually has many more than have signed up this year. This bike ride has several routes that range from a 25 mile fun ride to a 100 mile century. HAM operators are critical to provide communications for the event. Some operators are posted at rest stops and others are mobile (paired with a SAG (Support and Gear) driver. You can sign up for a morning or afternoon shift...or both. Plan to use your own gear! It's a great opportunity to exercise your ham radio skills... AND...it's a lot of fun! Please look for more information and sign up online at: <https://ffbcprimavera.wordpress.com/volunteers/> Contact Tony Flusche for questions or additional information at: ab6br@arrl.net

Also coming up in April is our 2nd Radio in the Park on Saturday, April 23rd. It's a low key, mini field day event at Central Park. We all had a blast last year, so let's do it again. Details will be forthcoming.

73!

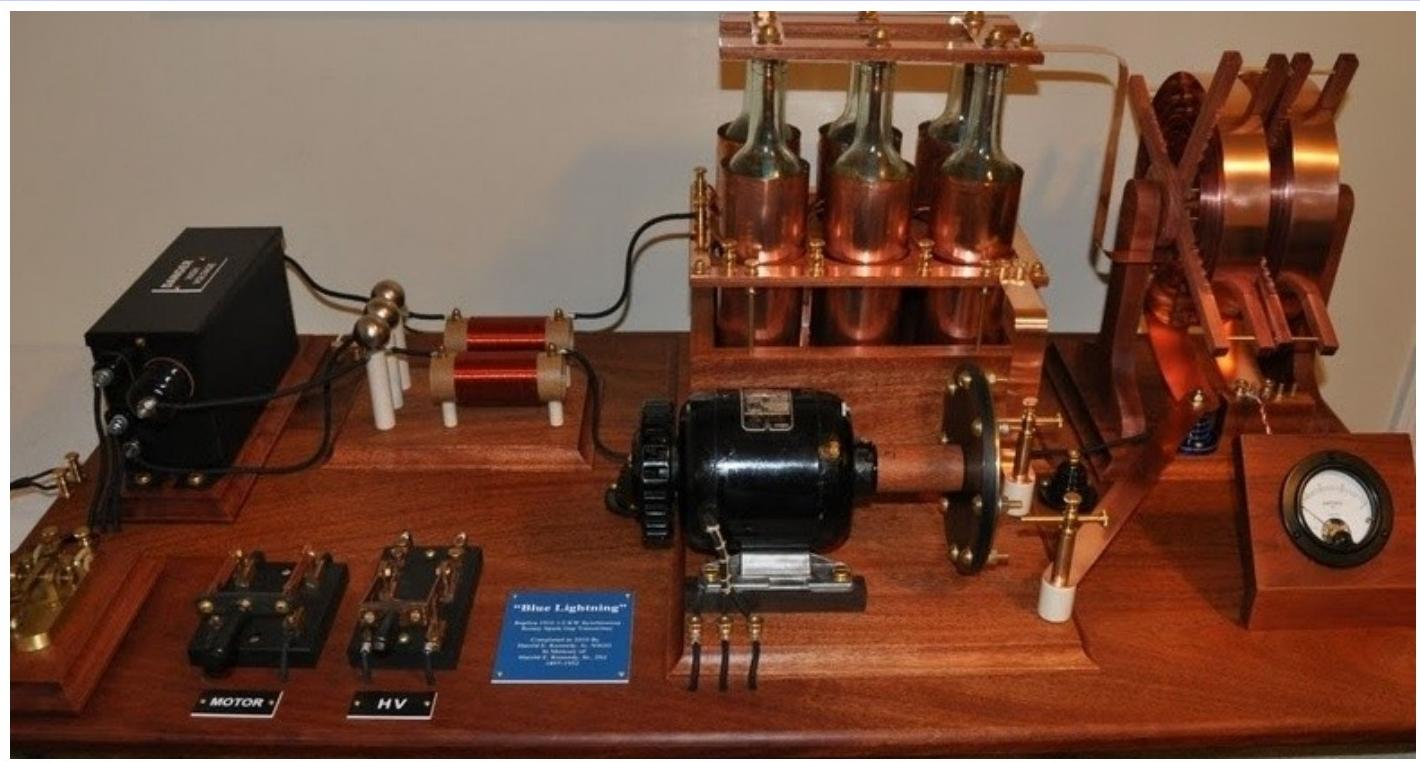
Steve KG6HJU

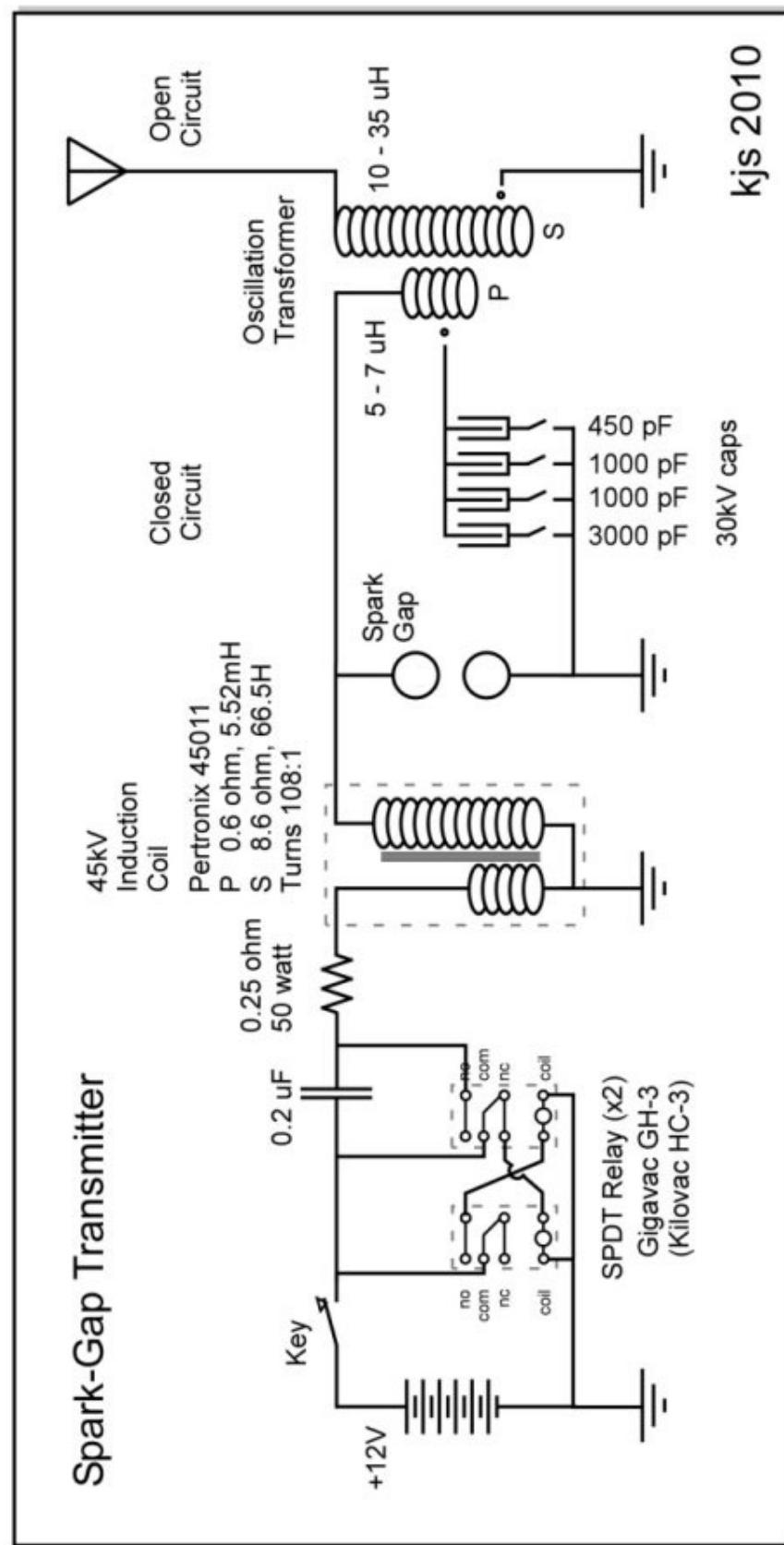
By Frank WG5X

The Spark Gap transmitter, first demonstrated by David Edward Hughes in 1879, was one of the early forms of generating electromagnetic radio waves. If you remember from your high school science, German physicist Henrich Hertz demonstrated that electrical energy does not leave a wire unless the flow of current is being started and stopped. Around the turn of the century, the rotary spark gap oscillator was how this was accomplished. The speed of the motor also controlled the wave length of the transmitted signals. This form of generating radio frequency was extremely broad banded and soon after the perfection of better oscillators was outlawed because it caused so much interference.

The Italian electrical engineer and inventor Guglielmo Marconi is generally credited with being the inventor of radio. For his efforts he received the 1909 Nobel prize in physics. One of the early methods for detecting these radio waves was with a tank circuit attached to a galena crystal and a crude antenna. This was one of the first solid state devices and was soon replaced by the vacuum tube. It took another fifty years for the semiconductor detector to be reinvented.

My Dad (W5MAV) used a spark gap transmitter and a crystal detector receiver when he was the radio operator on a coastal tanker back in the twenties. He was able to acquire an old 1912 spark gap signal receiver when they were replaced with the tube type equipment, and it is still in almost perfect condition.





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IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.arrl.org
www.colpage.org
www.qrz.com
www.dailydx.com
www.twit.tv/hn
www.dxspots.com

SBARA Membership meeting Friday,
March 11th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Hurricane Electric, 760 Mission Court
(off of Warm Springs Blvd), Fremont

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for the pre-
meeting dinner at; Ho Chow Restau-
rant, 47966 Warm Springs Blvd, Fre-
mont. (510) 657-0683



Nets and other Club Information

The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday (on 144.230 MHz) and Sunday (on 7.057 MHz +/- 3 KHz) night at 7:30 pm.

You need an "all-mode" transceiver in order to participate in this net.. The net now has its own email address. Please contact us here: : "SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

-... ...- Bernhard AE6YN

Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net takes place every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net.

-... ...- Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA.ORG has a new look and some updated content. Navigation follows the known style - information about the club can be accessed via the (black) menu bar at the top and the navigation bar on the left links to various topics of interest to the club. The Contact Us page provides easy access any of the board members and activity chairs, when you have a question or would like something to be included, changed and if a link is not working. The new layout is mobile friendly, making it easier to browse the website on tablet sized and smart phone sized mobile devices. I hope you enjoy the new website.